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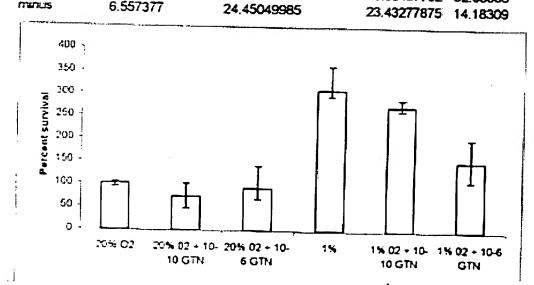
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An international journal devoted to Oncology Research and Cancer Treatment

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 1, JANUARY 2000



Norm to 20%		20% 02 + 10-6 GTN	20% 02 + 10-10 GTN	1%	1% 02 + 10-6 GTN	10/ 00 / 40 40 000
	0.780488	1.510125101	1.15669156	7 2.902439	1.078429179	1% 02 + 10-10 GTN
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-100 care received 7m
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i 725 jul of adm in 50 ml
100 m adm = 5 3 mg/ml
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The Effects of Nitric Oxide on the Urokinase System of Plasminogen Activation and on Cellular Invasiveness

425 Thesis

By: Lynne Postovit

Supervisor: Dr. C. Graham

ABSTRACT

Cellular invasion is a process which characterizes such biological occurrences as tumour progression and zygote implantation. It also plays a critical role in the remodelling of the uterine vasculature during the first trimester of pregnancy. Failure of trophoblast cells to complete this function may lead to such pathologies as pre-eclampsia. Both tumour progression and uterine remodelling have been shown to occur under low oxygen levels. The urokinase system of plasminogen activation plays a vital role in cellular invasiveness. Further, the expression of the urokinase-type plasminogen activator receptor (uPAR), as well as in vitro cellular invasion, increase under hypoxic conditions. In this study, immortalized human trophoblasts (HTR-8/SVneo cells) were used to study the effects of low levels of nitric oxide (NO) on uPAR expression and cellular invasion under hypoxic conditions. Exposure to the NO donors, sodium nitroprusside (SNP) and glyceryl trinitrate (GTN) resulted in a decrease in uPAR mRNA levels, as determined by Northern blot analysis. Further, they also decreased the ability of trophoblast cells to invade an extracellular matrix in vitro. These findings indicate that under hypoxic conditions, low levels of NO inhibit uPAR expression as well as in vitro cellular invasiveness. Through a similar mechanism, NO donors may be used therapeutically to inhibit tumour progression in vivo. Further, by inhibiting the invasiveness of trophoblast cells during the first trimester of gestation, NO may be playing an etiological role in the development of pre-eclampsia.

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INTRODUCTION

Pre-eclampsia is a common pathology of human pregnancy, causing such problems as